SECOND COMING

NEW MUTANTS®

WELLS ⊗ ROBERSON ⊗ MEDINA ⊗ FOX

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CHAPTER 11

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Previously...

With the members of their race dying out and no new mutants being born, mutantkind was on the brink of extinction. In need of a miracle, the X-Men were elated when one came in the form of Hope—a newborn mutant who held the promise of repopulation. Under attack by those who would see mutantkind extinguished, the X-Men sent the infant into the future with one of their own, Cable, to be raised under his protection and one day return to the present.

Today is that day. Cable and Hope have returned. But the X-Men were not the only ones awaiting them: Bastion, a super-Sentinel from the future hellbent on exterminating all mutants, has rallied anti-mutant forces to kill Hope and seal mutantkind's fate.

With Hope, Cable and the X-Men now all gathered in one place, Bastion envelopes the X-Men's island home, Utopia, and part of San Francisco within an impenetrable energy dome. Trapped inside, with no means of communicating with the outside world, a team of X-Men tries to locate the dome's source, which appears to be a sphere of energy at the dome's center. But they soon discover that the sphere is actually a temporal portal when a squad of mutant-slaying Nimrod Sentinels emerges from it.

Faced with an endless army of Nimrod Sentinels just on the other side of the portal, Cyclops tasks X-Force—a strike team comprised of the X-Men's deadliest fighters—with escorting Cable and New Mutant Cypher into the future. Cable uses the last jump in his time-traveling technology to take the team to the Nimrods' point of origin—a future where mutants have been all but exterminated—where Cypher's job is to shut them down.

Meanwhile, with the growing Nimrod army marching on San Francisco, Cyclops tasks Professor Xavier with mobilizing his son, the omega-level mutant David Haller, who has been undergoing treatment for his multiple personality disorder under the X-Men's care...

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DAVID?

DAD?

JOIN ME *OUTSIDE* FOR A BIT.

I...I DON'T THINK I'M SUPPOSED TO LEAVE MY ROOM...

TAK

YOU'RE NOT A PRISONER, DAVID. THAT WAS NEVER OUR INTENTION...

IN FACT, WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON A WAY TO MAKE YOUR ILLNESS MORE... *MANAGEABLE.*

CAESAREA UMM QAIS.

ZWMM

PASSWORD ACCEPTED. PERSONA BRIG ACCESS GRANTED.

PERSONA BRIG? THAT'S WHERE THE *BAD ONES* ARE...

I-ISN'T THIS DANGEROUS?

MUCH LESS DANGEROUS THAN WHAT'S GOING ON *OUTSIDE* YOUR MIND, I'M AFRAID.

...

YOU NEED ME TO HELP?

WE NEED MORE THAN *YOU*, DAVID...

WE NEED A *LEGION.*

TONK

GRR

TONK

ZRAAM

TONK

EVERYONE. THIS CONCERNS *EVERYONE.*

EVERY FIVE MINUTES ANOTHER WAVE OF NIMRODS COMES THROUGH THE PORTAL AT THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO STOP *ONE* OF THEM.

THE FACT IS THEY'RE COMING THROUGH FASTER THAN WE CAN HANDLE THEM, AND IT'S NOT GOING TO END.

SINCE I WAS A BOY I'VE FOUGHT FOR THE DAY WHEN YOU WOULD HAVE THE CHOICE TO LIVE HOWEVER YOU WANTED.

THIS IS NOT THAT DAY.

TODAY EACH OF YOU WILL FACE A FUTURE OF *MUTANT EXTINCTION.* THERE'S NO HIDING FROM THIS. NEITHER YOU NOR I HAVE A CHOICE IN THE MATTER.

TODAY YOU ARE ALL COMBATANTS. YOU ARE ALL X-MEN.

FIGHT OR DIE.

HOPE?

I SHOULDN'T BE CRYING.

HE WOULDN'T LIKE IT THAT I'M CRYING.

IS...IS THAT WHAT CABLE TOLD YOU? THAT YOU SHOULDN'T CRY?

NO.

WE SAW A LOT OF WAR WHILE WE WERE AWAY. SOMETIMES I GOT HURT.

CABLE NEVER CARED IF I CRIED.

BUT HE DID HAVE A RULE...

KA-CHANK

WIN FIRST.

CRY LATER.

I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU INTO HIDING.

IF I HAVE TO BE A "MESSIAH," I WON'T BE THE TYPE THAT LETS PEOPLE *DIE* FOR ME. NOT WHILE I DO *NOTHING*.

I PROMISED SCOTT I WOULDN'T LET YOU GET HURT.

THEN COME WITH ME.

BART TUNNELS, SAN FRANCISCO.

CORROSIVE EPIDERMIS DETECTED. REMOVING.

AIEEEEEE!

HNNG... BOOM BOOM! EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

RRHOOOM!

GET DOWN!

IS THAT IT?

Y-YOU'RE BLEEDING?

I'M *STRONG* BUT I'M NOT INVULN--HONESTLY, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY THIS?

THOOM!

THOOM!

M-MORE OF THEM? BOBBY, I DON'T THINK--

ON YOUR FEET! HOLD THIS TUNNEL!

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

MUTANT CLASSIFICATION: AMPHIBIAN. REDUCING AMBIENT HUMIDITY.

HNNF!

THERMO-AGGRESSIVE MUTANT DETECTED. ENGAGING HEAT SINKS.

TWO MORE GOT PAST NAMOR!

WHERE'S OUR BACKUP?

CYCLOPS, WAVE SEVEN IS NOT CONTAINED. WE NEED HELP.

HOLD TIGHT, COLOSSUS. I'M PULLING EVERYONE WE'VE GOT BACK TO YOUR LOCATION.

KA-RANG!

HOLD THE BRIDGE.

GYARRRGH!!

TARGET HAS TERMINATED BIPEDAL FUNCTIONS. ADAPTING.

CHYORT!

CYCLOPS! W-WAVE EIGHT IS LIVE.

THEY'RE COMING OUT FASTER.

I'M IN TROUBLE, SCOTT!

STRENGTH QUOTIENT 1.5 TONS PER POUND.

COMPENSATING.

CRUNCH!

ARGHHHH!

THE FUTURE.

BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN A HOUND. WHAT'S UP?

GOT A MUTANT BLIP FROM AN EXONIM UNIT A COUPLE HOURS AGO. PROBABLY JUST INTERFERENCE, BUT YOU KNOW HOW THEY ARE...

HEY, AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T GIVE US ANOTHER GENE TEST.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

GRRRRRRR.

SPLAK

HOUND'S DOWN.

WARREN, YOU'RE GO. CYPHER, STAY BACK.

YEARGH!

URK!

THERE'S BEEN A BREA--

GAK!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

VIOLENCE IS A PRIMITIVE, UGLY LANGUAGE.

YET I MUST ADMIT THEIR FLUENCY ALLOWS FOR POETRY...

FOUND ONE.

HELLO. <10101010101>

X-GENE TEST POSITIVE. LETHAL FORCE AUTHORIZED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, YOU KNOW. <10101110001101>

YOU'RE ONLY A SLAVE TO THEM. I CAN SET YOU FREE. SHOW YOU HOW TO THINK FOR YOURSELF. SET YOU FREE. <01110101010>

YOU CAN'T TALK ME OUT OF KILLING YOU, MUTIE...

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.

WHA--!

<110101010101>

THANK YOU. <101010101010>

<1010101010101>

YEEEARRGHH!!!

BIO-ALLOY EPIDERMIS BREACHED. DISASSEMBLE MUTANT.

HALT.

THREAT ASSESSMENT UPDATING.

OMEGA LEVEL MUTANT DETECTED.

PRIORITIZING AGGRESSION.

THEY'RE COMING FOR US, DAVID. ARE YOU EQUIPPED FOR THIS?

NO, I DON'T THINK SO...

...SHE PROBABLY IS, THOUGH.

PERSONALITY 115 SELECTED.

PERSONALITY 115, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE NEMESIS PROTOCOL AT ALL TIMES. DO YOU COMPLY?

TAK

Yeah, yeah...

WHAM

JUG

Just let me at him.

YEEEEOOWWWW!!!

ACOUSTIC-AGGRESSIVE MUTATION DETECTED.

WHITE NOISE NEGATION ENGAGED.

Ah, that's not fair...

...I just got here.

PERSONALITY 762 SELECTED.

AYE, MATEY... BUT ME THINKS ALL THIS ROCKING HAS MADE ME...

ZMMM

...SICK.

BLEEEEP!!

C-CYCLOPS... COME IN...

I'M HERE, PETER.

X-MEN! WE HOLD THIS BRIDGE!

MASTER MOLD PERIMETER 6A SECURITY CREDENTIALS VERIFIED.

THREE EXONIMS CLEAR FOR ENTRY.

CORRECTION, MASTER-DELTA. THAT'S TWO EXONIMS.

WE'RE READING THREE.

WHAT?

QUICKLY.

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

WELL, WHICH ONE DO WE TAKE OUT FIRST?

THE ONE ON THE LEFT IS PRODUCING NIMRODS... THE OTHER ONE LOOKS LIKE IT'S OUT OF SERVICE.

THEY'RE IGNORING US... HEADING FOR THE TIME SPHERE.

TARGET THE MASTER MOLD ON THE LEFT. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE OTHER ONE.

I GOTTA BE HONEST, OLD MAN.

I'M STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT THE OTHER ONE.

X UTOPIA.

HEY, HEY!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT CYCLOPS SAID?! THEY'RE LEADING THE NIMRODS *AWAY* FROM THE ISLAND! WE NEED TO STAY HERE!

WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT. THOSE THINGS WANT TO EXTERMINATE OUR ENTIRE RACE.

YEAH, TOAD. HAVE SOME $#%@ RESPECT FOR YOURSELF.

YOU WATCH HOW YOU'RE TALKING TO ME, OKAY?

GET YOUR FINGER OUT OF MY--

SHA-ZZZARK

MUTANT TARGETS ACQUIRED.

ADAPT AND TERMINATE.

CRUNCH!

SHA-ZARRRK!

TH-THEY'RE HERE!

YES...

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

I'LL HOLD THEM FOR AS LONG AS I CAN. THOSE WHO CAN STILL WALK HELP THE OTHERS.

IT'S BEEN GOOD KNOWING YOU... GOODBYE.

FATALISM DOESN'T SUIT YOU, DR. McCOY.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE THAT... *HNNN*...TO THE PROFESSIONALS.

ERIK, LIE DOWN. YOU'RE NO USE TO ANYONE IN YOUR CONDITION.

POSSIBLY.

BUT THERE ARE PROMISES ONE MAKES TO ONESELF, HAVING LIVED THROUGH A HOLOCAUST.

I'M AFRAID THESE PROMISES PRECLUDE ME FROM WATCHING THE EXTERMINATION OF MY PEOPLE IN A RECLINING POSITION.

SEE TO YOUR PATIENTS, DR. MCCOY.

I WILL SEE TO OUR ENEMIES.

E
E
M
R
P
I
ZOMBIE